

report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 433(d)(1)), I transmit herewith the Supplementary Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Sweden. The Supplementary Agreement was signed in Stockholm on June 22, 2004, and is intended to modify certain provisions of the original United States-Sweden Agreement, which was signed May 27, 1985, and that entered into force January 1, 1987.

The United States-Sweden Agreement, as revised by the Supplementary Agreement, remains similar in objective to the social security agreements that are also in force with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the loss of benefits that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Sweden Agreement, as revised by the Supplementary Agreement, contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Supplementary Agreement with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of the Supplementary Agreement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the effect of the Supplementary Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Supplementary Agreement and a composite text of the United States-Sweden Agreement showing the changes that will be made as a result of the Supplementary Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Supplementary Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend to the Congress the Supplementary Agreement to the United States-Sweden Social Security Agreement and related documents.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 20, 2007.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 658. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 838. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 839. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Weber Basin Project, Utah, to provide additional water for the Weber Basin Project to fulfill the purposes for which that project was authorized.

H.R. 902. An act to facilitate the use for irrigation and other purposes of water produced in connection with development of energy resources.

H.R. 1006. An act to amend the provisions of law relating to the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1021. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 658. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 838. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 839. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Weber Basin Project, Utah, to provide additional water for the Weber Basin Project to fulfill the purposes for which that project was authorized; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 902. An act to facilitate the use for irrigation and other purposes of water produced in connection with development of energy resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1006. An act to amend the provisions of law relating to the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1021. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1117. A communication from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rail Fuel Surcharges" (STB Ex Parte No. 661) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1118. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the benefits of economic dispatch of generating facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1119. A communication from the Office Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Design Basis Threat" (RIN3150-AH60) received on March 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1120. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments and Interim Guidance Regarding Allocation of Costs Under the Simplified Methods of Accounting Under section 263A" (Notice 2007-29) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1121. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update" (Notice 2007-27) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1122. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores—January 2007" (Notice 2007-18) received on March 15, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1123. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, the report of a draft bill entitled "Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2007"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1124. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Assets for Independence Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1125. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Law Judge Program—Examining System and Programs for Specific Positions and Examinations (Miscellaneous)" (RIN3206-AK86) received on March 16, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1126. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Personnel System Demonstration Projects; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1127. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Snake River Valley Viticultural

Area'' (RIN1513-AB22) received on March 16, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1128. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Tennessee Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1129. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities and accomplishments of the Joint Executive Committee of the Departments; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-25. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas relative to supporting the National Bio and Agrodefense Facility; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

##### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5009

Whereas, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 has tasked the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate "countermeasure research and development of new methods for detection, prevention technologies, agent characterization, and dose relationships for high-consequence agents;" and

Whereas, at present there are no facilities in the United States that have adequate containment, security, equipment and infrastructure to meet the requirements identified in Presidential Directive 9; and

Whereas, to meet this need, the Department of Homeland Security and its federal partners initiated plans for a National Bio and Agrodefense Facility (NBAF); and

Whereas, the NBAF will enhance protection from both natural and intentional threats by modernizing and integrating high-biosecurity facilities, thus enhancing our nation's capacity to assess potential threats to humans and animals alike; and

Whereas, the Department of Homeland Security is seeking a location to build the \$451 million, 500,000 square foot, NBAF facility; and

Whereas, the State of Kansas pledges its support for the funding and construction of the NBAF to address the needs of Kansas and the nation to protect human and animal health from both naturally occurring and intentionally introduced disease threats; and

Whereas, Kansas is the ideal location for the NBAF. Kansas is a world leader in bioscience, especially in the areas of animal health and vaccines, infectious diseases and food safety, and has an exceptionally well qualified workforce; and

Whereas, two sites in Kansas, one in Manhattan and one in Leavenworth, are actively under consideration by the Department of Homeland Security to site the NBAF facility; and

Whereas, the State of Kansas has already demonstrated its strong support for the siting of the NBAF in Kansas, as Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Bioscience Authority have taken the initiative to create a task force of prominent industry leaders, public officials, including the entire Kansas Congressional Delegation, representatives from the Kansas Legislature, producer groups and leaders of prominent academic institutions to lead Kansas' bids for the NBAF; and

Whereas, the State of Kansas has a long-standing commitment of supporting biosecu-

rity research in partnership with the federal government. Most recently, Kansas and the federal government invested \$54 million in the nation's most modern biosecurity laboratory, the Biosecurity Research Institute at Kansas State University: Now, therefore, Be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein*, That the Kansas Legislature pledges its support for Kansas State University, the City of Manhattan and the City of Leavenworth in their bids to site the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Bio and Agrodefense Facility, and that the Legislature commits to do everything in its power and ability to provide any support necessary in or for the NBAF to be constructed in Kansas; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Kansas Legislature strongly encourages the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider Kansas' existing building and security infrastructure, and the human resources already in place that make Kansas a natural fit for the location of this new federal laboratory; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Chertoff of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Johanns of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary Leavitt of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation and Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

POM-26. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho relative to forest land management; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, the United States Forest Service administers the management of 39% of the land base in the state of Idaho, and an additional 22% is administered by the United States Bureau of Land Management; and

Whereas, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. Section 471, an 1891 law authorizing the President to establish national forests, the purpose for establishing and administering national forests was to set aside public lands reserved as national forests to be controlled and administered, to the extent practical, in accordance with the Act which provided that "no national forest may be established except to improve and protect the forest, or to secure favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens"; and

Whereas, it has long been the intent and policy of the federal government to hold rural communities harmless from the creation of federal lands and in 1906 the Committee on Public Lands recognized that the presence of federal lands could create a hardship for many counties, as they provided little revenue or commerce at that time; and

Whereas, in 1908 Congress created the Twenty-five Percent Fund Act to pay states and counties 25 percent of receipts collected from national forests and mandated that payments were to be spent on schools and roads, recognizing that viable communities adjacent to the public lands, with adequate roads and schools, were essential for the development and preservation of the national forests; and

Whereas, the federal policy of holding counties harmless from the creation of public lands within counties was reiterated in 1916 with the creation of the Oregon and California Grant Lands under the Chamberlain-Ferris Act, and again in 1937 with passage of the Oregon and California Grant Lands Act; and

Whereas, the forest resources were intended to be managed in such an environ-

mentally responsible manner that they would produce long-term sustainable revenue to share with schools and counties as well as products for the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, commonly known as public law 106-393, which restored historical payment levels previously made to states and counties from the federal government for road and school purposes due to declining levels of actual forest receipts; and

Whereas, the reauthorization of public law 106-393 is pending before the United States Congress and Idaho counties are on record as being strongly supportive of a fully-funded approval of this Act; and

Whereas, recently, federal land managers have been faced with an ever-present funding shortage and rural counties will be faced with higher property taxes or a reduction in services if the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act is not reauthorized and appropriated; and

Whereas, there is continued concern that if the Act is reauthorized and appropriated it may be the last time it occurs and a long-term solution to these issues is necessary; and

Whereas, the state of Idaho is dependent upon healthy national forest system lands for economic benefit, recreation and scenic beauty and it is time to demonstrate a new initiative and commitment to the intent and policy of the federal government to hold counties and schools harmless from the creation of federal lands and construct a path leading to economic stability for rural communities and schools; and

Whereas, transfer of the management of the national forest system lands that are not designated as wilderness, proposed or recommended wilderness, wild and scenic river, or national recreation area, or designated roadless area in Idaho, to the state of Idaho would promote better stewardship of the public lands, provide financial returns to the counties, secure public access, meet Congress's intent to hold rural communities harmless from the creation of federal lands, and fund schools, road and bridge infrastructure which would offset significant tax increases in rural counties in the event the Secure Rural Schools payments are not reauthorized or are allowed to expire following the 2006 reauthorization; and

Whereas, precedent for state administration of federally-owned lands exists in the state of Idaho at the City of Rocks area in southern Idaho and campground-related facilities and land at Lake Cascade; and

Whereas, a transfer of management to the state of Idaho would demonstrate a new initiative and commitment to the intent and policy of the federal government to hold rural counties and schools harmless from the consequences of the reservation of federal lands and construct a process leading to economic stability for rural communities and schools; and

Whereas, lands for which management responsibility is transferred to the state of Idaho could administered by the Idaho Department of Lands in cooperation with county officials and with cooperative oversight by the United States. Forest Service and state and local government could establish, or use existing natural resource advisory committees composed of a diverse cross-section of the public, with all decisions and actions relating to the lands being required to comply with every federal and state environmental law; and

Whereas, the management of these lands would have to meet the mandates of the Healthy Forest Initiative, the National Fire Plan, and state and county fire mitigation plans. Now, therefore, be it